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SENATE MEMORIAL 5

**49TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2009**

INTRODUCED BY

William H. Payne

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR TO APPOINT THREE FORMER ADJUTANT  
GENERALS OF THE NEW MEXICO NATIONAL GUARD AS SPECIAL EMISSARIES  
TO THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO URGE THAT THE 150TH TACTICAL  
FIGHTER WING OF THE NEW MEXICO NATIONAL GUARD RETAIN ITS  
TRADITIONAL ROLE AS A FIGHTER WING.

WHEREAS, the 150th tactical fighter wing of the New Mexico  
national guard, which is known as "the tacos", has served the  
United States as a fighter wing since its inception, flying  
single-seat, single-engine fighters in combat tours in Vietnam  
and Iraq; and

WHEREAS, the fighter wing has been based at Kirtland air  
force base since 1947 and consists of one thousand people, from  
pilots to aircraft maintenance workers; and

WHEREAS, an effort is underway to shift the mission of the

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1 tacos from a fighter wing to a transport wing because of  
2 intense pressure from active air force personnel to gain more  
3 fighters; and

4 WHEREAS, New Mexico's airspace and landscape are ideal as  
5 training grounds for a fighter wing; and

6 WHEREAS, the New Mexico national guard has more usable  
7 training areas than other national guard units in the United  
8 States, has ideal weather for flying and training and has  
9 proximity to Fort Bliss, a military base with a growing need  
10 for close air support, which is the tacos' forte; and

11 WHEREAS, the 150th fighter wing is rated as one of the  
12 best fighter units in the country; and

13 WHEREAS, it is in New Mexico's and the United States' best  
14 interests to preserve the tacos' mission as a fighter wing;

15 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE  
16 OF NEW MEXICO that the governor be requested to appoint retired  
17 Lieutenant General Ed Baca, retired Major General Mel Montano  
18 and retired Major General Randy Horne, all of whom are former  
19 adjutant generals of the New Mexico national guard, as special  
20 emissaries from the state of New Mexico to meet with and urge  
21 top air force officials and national guard bureau officials to  
22 preserve the long-standing mission of the 150th fighter wing;  
23 and

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the senate stands ready, as  
25 the men and women of the tacos have for the United States, to

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1 assist at any time and in any manner to protect the traditional  
2 and critical mission of the 150th fighter wing; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
4 transmitted to the governor, the adjutant general of the New  
5 Mexico national guard, the members of the New Mexico  
6 congressional delegation, the secretary of the air force and  
7 the chief of the national guard bureau.

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